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OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

FOR

1 9 4 2.

WIRKSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1942.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Report for the Year 1942.

Wirksworth is a market town in the centre of an agricultural area, which is largely milk-producing. It is situated on limestone and limestone quarrying forms one of the principal industries of the place. Tape-weaving is another industry, and three mills afford employment of this description.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 4,015.
Population: Census (1939) 4,822.
Estimated Resident Population 4,800.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,440.
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers 1,443.
This figure is now variable owing to the influx of evacuees etc. and only a survey of the entire district would find out the exact population and separate families; the latter may have increased slightly.
Rateable Value, £21,487.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £82.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births -	Legitimate - 78) Illegitimate - 9)	87	40	47
Still Births -	Legitimate - 9) Illegitimate - -)	9	5	4
	Birth Rate	18.1		

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	64	21	43
Death Rate - -	13.3		

No. of Women dying in/or in consequence of childbirth -
From Sepsis - 0. From other causes - 0.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Total - 4. Legitimate - 4. Illegitimate - 0.
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births - 45.9

England and Wales - Infantile Death Rate 49.
Birth Rate 15.8
Death Rate 11.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 14
" " Measles(" ") 0
" " Whooping Cough 0
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age) 0
" " Scarlet Fever 0
" " Diphtheria 0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				1				
5								
10		1						
15								
20		1						
25								
35		1						
45				1				1
55								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No notifications of Tuberculosis have been received in respect of those engaged in the Milk Trade, and no action has been required.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been taken under this section during 1942.

The notification of Tuberculosis appears to be satisfactory.

Other Infectious Diseases notified (other than Tuberculosis) are shown in the following table:-

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	3	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	3	2	0
Measles	42	0	0
Chickenpox	65	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myelitis	0	0	0

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision.	Deaths.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The response to prophylactic inoculation against Diphtheria has been quite good. At the end of 1942, 70% of children between the ages of 1 & 5 had been inoculated, and of those between 5 & 15, 76% had been treated. I would again stress the importance of this treatment, and I hope for a continued response in 1943.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITALS:

A cottage Hospital in the town, which is dependent largely on voluntary subscriptions, affords in-patient and out-patient general treatment. Provision is also made for Maternity cases, but the accommodation for this class, is far below requirements. This Hospital now participates in the Derbyshire Hospitals' Contributory Association.

The Royal Infirmary, Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital, Derby, are all included in the Derbyshire Hospitals' Contributory Association.

1. Professional Nursing in the Home.
 (a) General - None.
 (b) Infectious Diseases - None.

2. Midwife.
 (a) One practising privately.
 (b) One under the supervision of the County Authority.

3. Clinics and Treatment Centres.
 (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Matlock provided by and under the control of the Derbyshire County Council. There is also a Child Welfare Centre in Wirksworth.
 (b) Day Nurseries - None.
 (c) School Clinics at the Elementary Schools in Wirksworth provided by the Derbyshire County Council.
 (d) Tuberculosis at the Tuberculosis Department, New County Offices, Derby, and also at the Tuberculosis Clinic, Matlock, provided by the Derbyshire Council.
 (e) Venereal Disease at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, provided by the Derbyshire County Council.

4. Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.
 (a) Tuberculosis - Derbyshire Sanitorium, outside the district provided by the County Council.
 (b) Maternity - Accommodation is provided at the Cottage Hospital, but as I have already mentioned, is far below erequirement.
 (c) Children - None.
 (d) Fever - Heage Isolation, outside the District, to which the Local Authority contributes its share.
 (e) Smallpox - Heage Isolation, outside the District.

5. Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children, and Homeless Children - None.

6. Ambulance Facilities.
 (a) For infectious cases, provided by the Heage Isolation Hospital.
 (b) For non-infectious and accident cases.
 (i) St. John Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.
 (ii) Matlock Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.
 (iii) Wirksworth Motor Ambulance, stationed at Wirksworth.

LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are made by the County Council Bacteriological Department.

Number of Specimens sent to the County Laboratory by private practitioners during 1942:-

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	1	9	10
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Phthisis	1	3	4
Miscellaneous	0	2	2
TOTAL	2	14	16

The Local Authority provides Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin free of Cost. A supply is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, who renders an account of its use to the Local Authority.

The following quantities were issued during 1942:-

Diphtheria Antitoxin - 8 vials, each containing 4,000 units.

Tetanus Antitoxin - 2.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	6th. December, 1893.
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III. (subject to certain conditions as to Sects. 35 & 38 Order L.G.B. No. 59992, of 22nd January, 1913)	20th. December, 1902. 5th. March, 1913.
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 (subject to certain conditions as to Sects. 25, 27 & 30 Order L.G.B. NO. 63662, 29th May, 1915)	12th. July, 1915.

Bye-Laws:-

New Streets and Buildings	- 1939
Common Lodging-Houses	- 1879
Nuisances	- 1879
Cleaning Footways, Removal of House Refuse & Cleaning Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools	- 1879

Shop Acts, 1912-28	25th August, 1930
do. 1934	26th November, 1934
Offensive Trades Order of L.G.B., No. 63721, of 18th June, 1915, confirming Council's Order of 26th April, 1915, containing list of offensive trades	26th April, 1915
Chicken Pox Compulsory Notification Order for Compulsory notification	22nd February, 1926
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. to IV., except Sections 21, 22 and 44	2nd May, 1927

Shops Acts 1934, came into operation by adoption 1936.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Both Wigwell and Dunsley supplies of water, have been unsatisfactory during the last year. In such a little district district as Wirksworth, there is a great tendancy to pipe fractures, and accordingly, much wastage of water. Waste detection takes considerable time and labour, and changes in Water Bailiff have rather interfered with this work. Similarily with the supervision and servicing of the water installations. The original spring supply at Middleton has diminished considerably, and some measure will have to be taken to ensure a supply against breakdown in the Dunsley Hydrostatic system. Water supplies are being chlorinated, but proper dosing equipment would be preferable. Boxes have been acquired and filled for protection of the existing elementary apparatus.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage system continues to be examined by Messrs Elliott & Brown, Consulting Engineers, Nottingham, following a representation of the Ilkeston & Heanor Water Board, that

such sewerage system contacts with the Meerbrook Sough and pollutes their water supply, a full report of which the surveyor rendered the Council in March, 1940, and upon which an informal enquiry was held in March 1941 by Mr. John Gardner, Inspector of the Ministry of Health. The sewer at Harlaam Mill has been reconstructed entirely, and other works are in hand or being contemplated, for improvement of the system. A full report of the scheme of abatement is now under consideration as a post war work.

The work of 54 conversions and the introduction of Elsan Closets, has been carried out with a view to materially improving the situation of alleged pollution of the Hannage Brook.

It has not been possible to proceed withthe cleaning -- scraping of the main sewer, owing to lack of labour.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This is carried out in the entire district by direct labour, and is proving more satisfactory than when executed by contract.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of on the Gorsey Bank and Hopton Wood Tips, with the exception of the contents of pail closets which are taken to the Sewage Farm,

PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

Fifty-four privy-middens and pail closets have this year been converted to W.C.'s. During the forthcoming year, I suggest that this work be accelerated as circumstances will allow. A large number of notices are still outstanding and I recommend the Council to insist on completion of same.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the schools, which were in some cases, last year, not up to standard, have not been improved to the full extent I should have liked, but labour scarcity, certainly retards progress. Notices served upon the managers of the C of E. School, at North End about two years ago, should be enforced by the Council. This school is dark, and some attempt should be made to increase the amount of light to the class rooms, and to remove the depressing environment which is very prevalent.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk, meat and other foods have been kept under supervision throughout the year, and found generally satisfactory, but Eggs, tinned foods & meat, condemned by the Inspector during the year, shows an increase on previous years.

HOUSING.

Building has been in abeyance owing to the War, only necessary repairs being done. The Council houses are supervised regularly and special inspections are made, when specific reasons or complaints demand them. Repairs are carried out, as and when materials and labour become available.

Reviewing the year as a whole, and considering the difficulties, under present conditions, the results have not been too bad. The incidence of infection, apart from Measles and Chicken-pox is comparatively small. The Birth-rate is up and the Death-rate down, compared with last year.

Water supply, Sewerage and Housing are our three great problems, as is the case in many places. Unfortunately, housing must needs be limited these days. Sewerage improvement must be carried out as best as circumstances will allow, in order to keep up a good standard of health, and with this, water supply, is all important.

The water-supply of the district has caused much concern in the past year, and as you are all fully alive to the fact that every effort must be made to rectify matters, I look forward, with confidence to a sufficient and reliable supply.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W.S.G. CHRISTIE.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Sanitary Inspector:

Charles Frobisher, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.Inst.P., F.Inst.H.E., A.M.I.Struct.E., C.R.S.I., Chartered Engineer.

(1) No. of houses converted from Privy Middens, etc., to Water Closets during the year 1942. 54.
No. of Privy Middens etc., converted to Water Closets during the past 11 years:-

Year -	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
No. -	8	9	31	19	7	13	11	15	5	54

(2) Approximate Number of Houses at 31st December with:

(a)	Privy Middens	76
(b)	Pail Closets	128
(c)	Water Closets	1220

(3) Work of the Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:

Area of District, 4,015 acres.
Estimated No. of Houses inhabited 1,440.
New Houses erected 1942:
(a) By Local Authority) Nil
(b) By Private Enterprise)

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.	No. of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	No. of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	No. of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (Not for conversion)	-	6	6
Conversion of Privies into W.C's	42	-	28
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C's	36	-	26
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	-	-	-
Defective Water Closets	-	-	-
Provision of additional W.C's	2	-	2

Provision of Portable Ashbins	4	-	4
Dirty Closets	1	-	1
DRAINAGE.			
No Disconnection of waste Pipe	4	-	4
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps Inlets and Drains	12	-	10
Drains Obstructed	10	-	9
OTHER DEFECTS.			
Paving of Courts and Yards	1	-	1
Roofs, Eaves and Down-Spouts	2	2	2
Sinks	6	8	12
Insufficient Ventilation	2	2	4
Windows	1	1	1
Dampness	2	-	2
Water in Cellars	2	-	2
Water Supply; Burst Pipes and Defective Taps	3	10	13
Overcrowding	14	-	12
Foul Condition of Houses	2	-	2
Offensive Accumulations	2	-	2
Animals improperly kept	1	-	1
Pigstyes	-	-	-
Smoke Niusances	2	-	2
Urinals	3	-	3
Nuisances not specified above	3	-	3

	Number on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without Notices.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	54	78	3	3
Bakehouses	4	12	-	-
Slaughter Houses	4	4	-	-
TOTAL	62	94	3	3

Infected Rooms Disinfected, 12. Method: Fumigation.

Sewage effluents taken quarterly by County Council. Satisfactory.

Prosecutions, Particulars of; Sanitary defects.

Results of prosecution: Action against Warlton Entertainments Ltd. - re insanitary conveniences and lack of water supply. Lost the case.

Food Seizures; Nil, but considerable meat and tinned foods condemned and voluntarily surrendered.

Milk Samples Analysed; Analysis now mainly carried out in conjunction with County Agricultural Committee.

Food Voluntarily Surrendered; (Cases) 6 3000 eggs, 400 lbs. meat and variable small quantities of tinned foods.

Water Samples Analysed (Specimens) 9 Bacteriological and chemical.

Other Action taken; Pamphlets issued to all Shopkeepers, Cowkeepers and Dairymen, of their obligations under the Inspective Acts, and Survey made of water supplies and Consumptions at all dairies and cowsheds, and notices and letters issued to Cowkeepers whose milk does not conform to the district standard.

(4) Inspection of places where food is prepared:

		Inspections made
(a)	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	78
(b)	Bakehouses	12
(c)	Slaughter Houses	4
(d)	Offensive Trades	-
	Total	94

(5) Number and condition of Slaughter Houses registered or licensed.

	1942.
Registered	3
Licensed	1

The Slaughter Houses although not in use during the war are kept clean and are lime-washed in accordance with Regulations. All meat is supplied from Derby. Bones are salvaged by the Council.

(6) Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation and the extent of their use:

Upon the recovery of a patient from infectious disease, or the removal of a patient to hospital, the infected rooms are disinfected with Formalin Vapour, and if necessary, the clothing and bedding sent to Heage Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

(7) Action taken with regard to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:-

Every Cowkeeper, Dairyman and Purveyor of Milk in the district is registered, and their premises and utensils are kept under observation. Milk is regularly tested for cleanliness and rejected when below standard.

The number on the Register is as follows:-

Retail Purveyors of Milk	18
Wholesale Traders and Producers	20
	38

(8) Action taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations.

The Council is not a Local Authority under these Acts, but cases are reported as and when necessary by the Sanitary Inspector to the County Council.

(9) Action taken with a view to Smoke Abatement:-

Two cases were dealt with statutorily during the year under review, and informal action where necessary secured satisfactory improvement.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR ON FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

The following is a summary of the Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces on the Register in your District.

These premises have been kept under observation, and the respective sanitary condition of each has invariably been found satisfactory.

SUMMARY.

Factories -

Factory Bakehouses	5
Building Contractors	4
Tape Works	4
Stone Quarries	5
Whitesmiths	1
Silk Stocking Factory	1
Total	20

Workshops -

Building Contractors	4
Painters, Decorators and Plumbers	6
Tin Plate Workers	1
Blacksmiths	2
Tailors	1
Wagon Repairers	1
Bootmakers	1
Boot Repairers	2
Cabinet Makers	2
Monumentalists	2
Dressmakers	2
Milliners	2
Cycle Repairers	2
Saddlers	1
Hairdressers	2
Bakehouses	4
Motor Repairers	1
Printers	2
Quarries	5
Total	43

Please note that above reductions are due to operation of Military Service Acts etc.

Nuisances found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, and Remodied.

Want of Cleanliness	-
Want of Ventilation	-
Offensive Accumulations	-
Water Closets defective	1
Insanitary Privy Closets	-
Defective Traps	1
Foul Condition of Premises	-
Gas Plant emitting Noxious Fumes	1

PUBLIC SCAVENGING.

Public Scavenging is in operation in the whole District for the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Pail Closets, Ashpits, Ashbins, and Cesspools, and is carried out by direct labour, which has proved an improvement on contract work.

The whole of the refuse is disposed upon the Gorsey Bank Tip and Hopton Wood Tip, with the exception of the contents of the Pail Closets, which go to the Sewage Farm. The Council acquired a modern scavenging vehicle, during the year and instituted collections by direct labour. The unit also collects salvage. The work by direct labour, although not yet fully satisfactory, nor as economical as by contract - is undoubtedly much more satisfactory and hygienic than when executed by contract.

CHARLES FROBISHER,

Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

W.S.G. CHRISTIE, M.B., Ch.B.,

Part time. Half Salary contributed.

Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES FROBISHER.

Part time. Half Salary Contributed.
Engineer and Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council.

HOUSING.

No. of Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total -
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme -

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) -	55
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose -	107
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 -	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose -	Nil
(3)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to Health as to be unfit for human habitation -	3
(4)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. -	28

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers - 24

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

A. - Proceedings under Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act. 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners - 9
(b) By local authority in default of owners - -

B. - Proceedings under Public Health. Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners - 5
(b) By local authority in default of owners - -

C. - Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act.,1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - Nil

Housing Act, 1936:

Notices served under S. 11 -
Ditto S. 9 - -

WATER SUPPLY DURING THE YEAR 1942.

1942		Rainfall.		Yield of Springs in Gallons per Hour.	
Month.	1941 Inches	1940 Inches	1942 Inches	1942	1941
January	6,08	7.69	5.83	6.450	7.396
February	3.23	2.72	3.53	6.750	8.165
March	3.29	2.12	3.76	6.450	8.330
April	1.94	1.87	1.72	5.900	7.800
May	2.87	2.05	4.98	6.250	6.312
June	.50	.65	.54	4.650	5.093
July	3.53	2.73	2.82	2.720	3.539
August	4.26	.34	3.69	2.500	3.036
September	.54	1.66	1.35	2.350	2.925
October	3.79	3.35	2.27	2.150	2.705
November	3.62	8.67	2.04	1.950	3.569
December	1.34	1.76	3.16	3.760	5.157
	34.99	35.61	34.96	4.323 Average.	5.376

CHARLES FROBISHER,

M.Inst.M. & C.E., A.M.I.Str.E., F.Inst.H.E.

Water Engineer and Surveyor,
and Sanitary Inspector.